

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

West Monroe, LA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of West Monroe for a Brownfields Pilot. Chartered just over a century ago, West Monroe (population 14,096) enjoyed a thriving economy and was considered a major cotton producing, processing, and shipping hub. However, with the decline of industrial operations in the area, many properties were abandoned. More than 20 percent of the city's population lives below the poverty level, and the unemployment rate is as high as 7.4 percent. The city recently initiated a revitalization effort, consisting of the reclamation and development of an old sand and gravel mine, which has generated community support for further renewal of the area and created new business growth. The Pilot will target West Monroe's portion of Ouachita, a federally designated Enterprise Community.

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot's will target up to four sites for assessment and subsequent cleanup and redevelopment. The city intends to advance its overall development potential by returning abandoned and underutilized properties to active, effective, and productive use throughout the city's incorporated areas and along the city's edge. The Pilot will conduct an inventory

PILOT SNAPSHOT



West Monroe, LA

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will target brownfields in West Monroe's portion of Ouachita Parish, a federally designated Enterprise Community.

Contacts:

City of West Monroe, Louisiana
(318) 396-2600

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 6
(214) 665-6736

Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6st/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

of brownfields sites within the city limits and identify brownfields sites with viable redevelopment potential. The city also plans to conduct community outreach and encourage community involvement, as well as leverage additional funding for cleanup and redevelopment activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting an inventory of brownfields sites with important development and historic characteristics;
- Establishing a local geographic information system (GIS);
- Conducting Phase I assessments on up to 20 brownfields;
- Targeting up to four brownfields for Phase II assessment and cleanup and redevelopment planning; and
- Conducting community outreach and encouraging community involvement in the targeted areas.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.